THE DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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Questions or comments about the activities in this issue should be directed to the contact people named. To subscribe to THE DISSEMINATOR, send a message to listserv@nshpl.library.ns.ca and enter the following text in the body of the message: **subscribe dissem-list yourfirstname yourlastname.** Comments on or suggestions for THE DISSEMINATOR should be directed to Gillian Webster at webstegs@gov.ns.ca

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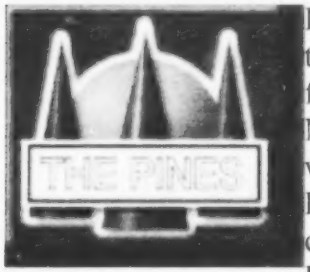
AUTOMATION WORKING GROUP

The Automation Working Group (AWG), representing all nine regional libraries and two other NcompasS libraries, has met twice this Fall. As automation is rolling out across the regions and the use of the circulation module is becoming more wide-spread, the concerns of AWG are changing. Discussions have moved on to areas such as local system support, upgrading public access terminal software and standardizing policies rather than the more basic topics of even six months ago.

Items of particular concern to the group include the impact of automation on library staff, the apparent excessive use of chat sites on public access computers, promotion of the province-wide library card, and EDnet bandwidth. Of course, staff training continues to be in the forefront. Several regions now have staff "on call" for all open hours, but reports are that the number of calls goes down dramatically as staff become more comfortable with the system. The Automation Working Group has taken over the role of coordinating Year 2000 issues in regional libraries. A joint approach to the process of identifying which systems are Year 2000 sensitive and ensuring that critical systems will function in the new century has been adopted and the process is well underway.

COUNCIL OF REGIONAL LIBRARIES MEETING



Librarians from regional libraries and other NcompasS member libraries met at the Digby Pines first for the Automation Management Committee meeting followed by the Council of Regional Librarians meeting and then the NovaKnowledge Conference. Items of spirited discussion included the question of whether filtering should be considered on library computers and how Nova Scotia Provincial Library can work together with the regional libraries to complete cataloguing activities more speedily. Several of the Chiefs stayed on at the Digby Pines to attend the Fall NovaKnowledge Conference. The topic for the conference was "Opportunities in the Rural Economy". Trudy Amirault, Chief Librarian at Western Counties Regional Library, and Jackie MacDonald, Librarian at the Western Regional Hospital presented the Western Health Information Project during a Bell Ringer session and Carole Compton-Smith presented information during a workshop entitled Business Information and the Internet.

COUNCIL OF YOUTH LIBRARIANS' MEETING

The biannual meeting of the Council on Youth Services took place at the Provincial Library on November 20. A presentation of the World Book Online in the Training Room piqued everyone's interest on encyclopaedia databases suitable for the younger library patrons. This was followed by an animated presentation of the 1999 Summer Reading Program's graphic, given by Ray Whitley of Learning Resources Technology. The Summer Reading Program's 1999 theme is "space" with the

accompanying slogan of "Launch Yourself Into A Good Book/Lancez-vous Dans La Lecture".

CUMBERLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY NEWS

Once again, the generosity of the Amherst Credit Union and MT&T has made it possible for the Cumberland Regional Library to buy a new computer for use by those who do not have access to the Internet. Credit Union manager Bob Coffin presented a cheque for $2,500 in September to Cumberland Regional Library assistant chief librarian Frances Newman.

NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE LIBRARY

The Nova Scotia Department of Education and Culture Library, located in the Trade Mart building in Halifax, is mandated to serve the information needs of Departmental staff. The public is welcome to use the Library's resources by appointment, but materials are not available for direct borrowing. Some items also can be made available through interlibrary loan. The Library has over 7000 books and reports on education issues, policy, finance and administration, primarily in the areas of curriculum development and evaluation; special education; community colleges; higher education; lifelong learning; comparative education, public administration; diversity and multicultural education and cultural policy. The Library receives over 200 current journals & newsletters relating to education, public administration and culture.

A special collection of particular interest is the Authorized Learning Materials Collection, consisting of resources approved for use in the public school system of Nova Scotia. These include student and teacher materials for Grades Primary to 12 for the English, French Immersion and French First Language programs. While these materials can be purchased from the Nova Scotia School Book Bureau, they cannot be viewed there, making the Library's collection a unique resource. The *Lists of Authorized Instructional Materials* are expected to be available for browsing on the EDnet site in the new year. Library hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday. Please call ahead if you wish to visit (902) 424-4920 or E-mail: educlib@gov.ns.ca

NEWS ON FULL-TEXT DATABASES FOR REGIONAL LIBRARIES

Electric Library Canada database

Carole Compton-Smith had the opportunity to travel to Philadelphia for a demonstration of the "Electric Library Canada" online database. The parent company is Infonautics and this company provides all of the indexing and software to search the magazines, graphics, maps etc. In Canada the company is working with Rogers Media. Electric Library has a strong market in the schools in the US. In late February 1999, the NSLA and Electric Library Canada will be co-sponsoring a contest for all library staff and library students in Nova Scotia. This contest will be run from the NSLA homepage at http://www.library.ns.ca/nsla For two weeks, you will have free access to the subscription database from Electric Library Canada. You have simply to answer a few questions using the database and submit your answer online. That makes you eligible to win the $250 first prize Roots certificate for yourself and up to

$250 cash for the library/school from which you submit the answer (prizes randomly drawn from correct responses).

This contest is brought to you by the NSLA as a professional development opportunity to discover how such databases operate. Providing the response is favourable, maybe we can set up future opportunities with other subscription databases to let you test drive them. For more information, email Ron Bulmer at trrb1@nsh.library.ns.ca By the way, only NSLA members qualify for the prize money! For details on joining NSLA, e-mail Janet Channing, NSLA membership chair at mhjc1@nsh.library.ns.ca

Canadian Periodical Index (CPI-Q) and Books in Print (BIP) databases

These two online reference databases on the Infotrac Searchbank system have just been "turned on" for all of the public Internet access computers for library patrons. Are you in a book club and reading books by Jane Urquhart? You will be able to amaze your friends with the biographical and review information you have been able to find on Urquhart by using CPI-Q from your library computer! CPI-Q is a comprehensive list of Canadian and international journals, magazines, newspapers and other references in full-text. Books in Print with Book Reviews has millions of titles retrievable by title, author, subject, publisher, etc., and thousands of full-text book reviews.

HALIFAX REGIONAL LIBRARY FUNDING

Halifax Regional Library Board plans to work with the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Council in the development of a Multi-Year Financial Strategy incorporating the Central Library. The Central Library project has been deferred to the year 2001/2002, or sooner if circumstances change, due to the current financial challenges facing HRM. The Library Board will proceed with its fundraising project following a review and refocusing in light of the deferral. For more information, contact Leanne Marchand, Communications Officer at 490-5852 or 490-5744.

ELECTRONIC BOOKS

NuvoMedia Inc. announced on October 23 that its Rocket eBook is now available for purchase by consumers. The Rocket eBook is a 22-oz. hand-held information appliance which can hold at least 4,000 pages (about 10 novels) of text and graphics at a time. Its user interface is designed for reading with optimized screen technology that is easy to read in all lighting situations. A battery life of up to 33 hours will provide users uninterrupted reading whether in the office, at home or on the go. Being digital, books read on the Rocket eBook can be browsed, searched, annotated, underlined, linked and referenced in ways impossible with a paper book.

Publishers supplying content for the Rocket eBook include Addison Wesley Longman, O'Reilly & Associates, Bloomberg Financial Markets, Penguin Putnam Inc, Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, HarperCollins Publishers, Simon & Schusters, Harvard Business Schools Press, St. Martin's Press, Henry Holt and Company, Inc, Tor Books, Inc., Macmillan Computer Publishing, The Wall Street Journal and McGraw-Hill Publishing.

The main competitor to NuvoMedia's Rocket eBook is SoftBook Press' SoftBook, illustrated. It is also a hand-held device designed specifically for reading electronic books with text and illustrations. SoftBooks are due to go on sale in November 1998. For more information, check the Press Releases pages at the Softbook Press Web site at **www.softbook.com**, and NuvoMedia's eBook at **www.nuvomedia.com**. Everybook has a similar device called the Dedicated Reader and their site is at **www.everybk.com**.

NOVA SCOTIA CULTURAL NETWORK

The Nova Scotia Cultural Network has an exciting website which is growing daily. It is becoming a one-stop shopping spot for your cultural information needs. Visit **http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/nscn** for:

* Employment Information - if you are seeking employment or want to post a job ad, simply E-mail your advertisement to **nscn@ns.sympatico.ca** for free posting on our website.
* Cultural Announcements - updated daily, this electronic news clipping service will keep you abreast of the latest cultural news and issues.
* Funding Information - the Network provides a comprehensive list of cultural funding agencies and links to their websites.

LIBRARIES AS ON-RAMPS TO THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY

A new study, entitled **Canadians, Public Libraries and the Information Highway**, was released recently. The study examined public perception of public libraries as access sites for the information highway. The findings of the study confirm that public libraries continue to be both a major information resource and an equalizer in making information widely accessible, according to National Librarian, Marianne Scott. The report is available on the LibraryNet website at http://www.schoolnet.ca/ln-rb/.

TRAINING NOTES

Automation Training News

Plans are underway to launch circulation at Colchester-East Hants Regional Library (CEHRL) and South Shore Regional Library (SSRL) early in the new year. Training in the MultiLIS Policies Management module marks the beginning of preparations for implementing the Circulation module. Following Policies Management training sessions in August and October, CEHRL staff have made their key decisions on circulation policies and the first part of Circulation module training was November 30. More circulation module training will follow in January. SSRL staff received the first part of Policies Management training in October and are now at work on making their policies decisions. More Policies Management training is planned for January, and Circulation module training will follow early in the new year. Much of October and November has been spent thoroughly testing the Circulation module and preparing a Circulation Module Training Manual. Circulation module training for Western Counties Regional Library and Annapolis Valley Regional Library was done by DRA/MultiLIS. The upcoming rounds of Circulation module training will be the first to be delivered by Provincial Library.

Web Ncompass and Searchbank Training

Since the Launch of Web NcompasS at the Pugwash Branch Library, LibraryNet workers, Michael Vandenburg and Craig Cormier, have been busy preparing presentations, designing Web pages and

posters, and offering hands on training sessions to library staff on NcompasS and the Infotrac Searchbank system. Craig has been illustrating the Web NcompasS and its new web browser interface which allows the public to search the entire Nova Scotia Library system at any branch. People who have computers at home and who are connected to the Internet can do this from their own computer. Michael has been showing staff the wonderful advantages of Searchbank, and how the public will be able to access over 650,000 articles from magazines and journals on line from any public library branch. Most notable is the inclusion of two new databases - Books in Print and CPI-Q (Canadian Periodical Index).

The trainers have been inYarmouth, Meteghan, Weymouth and Digby libraries and many staff see the benefits and potential cost savings that this technology offers - especially in terms of purchasing magazines and journals. The most effective way of learning how the systems work appears to be the one-on-one approach, which affords staff an opportunity to use the software directly. For the first two weeks of December, the trainers will be heading to the Eastern Counties Regional Library and again out to the Western Counties Regional Library before going to the Amherst branch of the Cumberland Regional Library.

Nova Scotia Provincial Library Reference Workshops

User Services staff have been planning and conducting training in several topics at various regional library locations. More training sessions will take place at the Provincial Library for in-house staff and regional public library staff. Visits have been made to Bridgetown, Mulgrave and New Glasgow in the last two months. Topics include instructing users on how to choose worthwhile websites in a workshop called "Virtual Collection Development". Another recent workshop is "Legal Resources" and the emphasis there is on Nova Scotia primary and secondary legal resources. Topics for the New Year include "Tourism/Recreation Resources", "Statistics Canada Resources" and "Introduction to HTML Composition".

Kiersey Temperament Sorter Personality Assessment Staff Workshop

On October 15, staff of Provincial Library attended a Personality Assessment Workshop. A week before the workshop, staff were asked to complete a series of questions that were scored by the convenor and results were returned at the workshop. It was interesting to see what kind of personality profile resulted from the answers. The workshop was to help individuals become familiar with the different personality types so that they are better able to understand themselves and to relate with others for personal and business relationships. Some people are thinkers, others are doers, some like to jump right in to start a project, others like to finish what somebody else started. Some people are energized from within, others are energized from outside sources. Some people decide things in a logical, objective way, while others decide in a personal, value-oriented way.

Free Internet Training for Public Library Staff

The Internet Guide, or TIG, is a self-paced Web course on basic Internet skills produced by the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto. TIG provides step-by-step instruction in using browsers, doing research on the Net, e-mailing, participating in chat and discussion groups, downloading software and more. Full TIG access is now available to all Canadian public library staff. For more

information on registering, go to http://conted.fis.utoronto.ca/TIG/Programs/reg/LN.asp.

STAFFING NOTES

25th Anniversary Award for Frank Oram

Frank Oram, User Services Section, Nova Scotia Provincial Library was presented with a Long Service Award at a ceremony held at the World Trade and Convention Centre on November 2, 1998. This award represents 25 years of service with the provincial government. Frank was one of 181 civil servants who received their Long Service Awards at this ceremony. The awards were presented by the Premier and the Lieutenant Governor, both of whom were in attendance on this occasion. Frank came to the Provincial Library in 1980 after working for 8 years at the Health Sciences Library of the former Victoria General Hospital. He managed the Union Catalogue of Nova Scotia and the Inter-Library Loan Service for a number of years, and has been Professional Services Librarian since 1992.

LINKed

In the upcoming year - 1999 - there will be many events all over the world to celebrate the coming of the millennium and there is a lot of activity on the Internet about this. In preparation for inquiries about the millennium, this month's "Linked" column features some of the better sites.

Canada and the Millennium at **http://www.millennium.gc.ca/** is a bilingual site produced by the Millennium Bureau of Canada which is a guide to Canadian millennium events and projects. The Youth and the Millennium page has links to other topics and there is an interactive Discussion Page where predetermined subjects will be discussed. There are Millennium and Year 2000 Links to Canadian and International sites.

The World Observatory of the Year 2000 at **http://www.tour-eiffel.fr/teiffel/an2000_uk/** is a bilingual site which originates in France and is produced by Trimaran, a French company. There is information on events being planned around the world and information on the millennium in relation to history, science fiction and futurology as well as books on the year 2000. Links to other sites are in the "See the Net" section.

Greenwich2000: Millennium Channel at **http://millennium.greenwich2000.com/** is the official countdown to the millennium site. The frame version is slow but you can click to remove frames. The site also has information on millennium events around the world and on the Year 2000 computer problem.

Everything 2000 at **http://www.everything2000.com/** published by Milestone Media covers millennium events, the computer crisis, movements, organizations, and news.

The Billenium: The Official Celebration of the Year 2000 at **http://www.billennium.com/home-frame.htm** is produced by the Billenium Organizing Committee which was established in 1991 in Chicago. There is a countdown clock where you can see exactly how much time is left to the year 2000. At the site you can keep up-to-date on a series of events in 1999 which will end with a 2000th birthday party for the world.

Talk 2000 at **http://humnet.humberc.on.ca/talk2000.htm** is sponsored by Humber College, Toronto. As well as providing an opportunity to talk about the millennium, there is a monthly newsletter "Let's Talk 2000", answers to questions about the millennium, and a resources section which lists books on topics related to the millennium.

If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at cmorris@nshpl.library.ns.ca.

REFERENCE ON THE NET

More reference questions referred to the Provincial Library by the Regional Public Libraries which were answered from resources found on the Internet.

Q. How and when were brown trout introduced into the Annapolis Valley?

A. At the Nova Scotia Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture web site at **http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/** click on "Search our Site" and then enter the keywords "brown trout". This brings up a list of documents on the site including "Fisheries and Aquaculture: Inland Fisheries: Brown Trout (Salmo Trutta)". This page at **http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/inland/species/brn.htm** has factual information on the brown trout and a contact address in the Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture to obtain specific information to answer this question.

Q. Would like information on the history of Stanfield's underwear company which is located in Truro, Nova Scotia.

A. At the Altavista search engine at **http://www.altavista.com/** enter "stanfields +underwear" and you will get a list of sites including "Stanfield's - 'The Underwear Company'". Click on this and you will get the homepage for Stanfield's at **http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/stanfields/index.html**. Click anywhere to get to the index page, where you will see "Stanfield's History" when you scroll down. When you click on this you will come to an informative article on the history of Stanfield's at **http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/stanfields/history.html.**

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, we are featuring two American Society of Information Science monographs which have recently been added to our professional collection. These items are available on interlibrary loan from the collection.

American Society for Information Science. **The Digital Revolution: ASIS Mid-Year 1996: proceedings of the ASIS Mid-Year meeting, San Diego, California, May 18-22, 1996.** Medford, N.J. Published for the American Society for Information Science by Information Today, 1996.(Call # Prof. 303.483 Ame.)

These proceedings present an exploration of the issues and the effects that the digital revolution is having on the ways we conduct business, the ways that we teach and the ways that we interact to build a social structure that forms our society. The various papers and sessions strive to identify and understand the dynamics of these changes and to develop and debate methodologies for this assessment. The proceedings are divided into two parts: the contributed papers and the Society's sessions.

Logan, Elisabeth and Gluck, Myke. **Electronic Publishing: Applications and Implications.** Medford, NJ: Information Today, 1997. (Call # Prof. 070.50285 Ele)

The authors make the point that electronic publishing is a rapidly developing worldwide communications medium and questions of access, quality and financing are three key concerns. The authors examine several different aspects of electronic publishing in chapters organized into two general categories: "Standards and Technology Issues in Electronic Publishing" and "Electronic Publishing Applications". A final chapter addresses legal issues of copyright in electronic media.